



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**JANUARY 8, 2004**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **FORMER THEATER MANAGER PLEADS GUILTY TO GIFT CARD FRAUD**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that the former manager of a movie theater pleaded guilty in federal court today to creating nearly \$19,000 worth of fraudulent AMC Theatres gift cards.

**Joshua R. Carcopa**, 22, of Kansas City, waived his right to grand jury indictment and pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to a federal information that charges him with possessing 189 AMC Theatre gift cards, which were each fraudulently encoded in amounts of \$100.

**Carcopa** was a shift manager at Ward Parkway 14 Theatres during the time of the offense, from Feb. 3 to June 23, 2003. As a manager, Graves explained, **Carcopa** had access to the computer that encoded the gift cards with their monetary value. **Carcopa** learned that if the encoding device had its power interrupted after encoding a card, the gift card would retain its monetary value, but the computer would fail to log the transaction.

By pleading guilty, **Carcopa** admitted that he encoded cards, then unplugged the encoding device to mask what he had done. **Carcopa** encoded 189 gift cards, Graves said, then provided the cards to an acquaintance who would redeem the cards for their cash equivalent at various AMC Theatres in Missouri and Kansas. After redeeming the cards, they would share the proceeds. Graves added that, although the total value of the fraudulent cards was \$18,900, **Carcopa** and his accomplice actually redeemed \$9,465.

Under federal statutes, **Carcopa** could be subject to a sentence of up to 10 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey Valenti. It was investigated by the U.S. Secret Service.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)